FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR

1970

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

John William Finch, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

James Marley Yarham, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

Mrs. E. North

Public Health Dept.,
South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my twenty-third and last annual report, which has been prepared along similar lines to its predecessors.

Felixstowe has always claimed to be a healthy place and, in general, the health statistics bear this out. In many ways a seaside town which depends to some extent on the goodwill of visitors is very vulnerable and it is essential that the strictest control of all aspects of hygiene and sanitation be maintained.

During 1970 the work of the Public Health Department was directed in the main towards ensuring that acceptable standards of hygiene were maintained in food premises and that Food hygiene received particular attention during the year and every effort was made to educate all who deal with food in their obligations to the community. The maintainances of housing standards in the district also received much attention.

I regard myself as fortunate in being associated with Felixstowe during a most interesting and exciting period of its history. The gradual change which transformed the town from its postwar depression of the late '40s to the most modern and thriving port of the late '60s is a source of wonder and admiration and I personally feel that the future is brighter still.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the past and present members of the Council for their courtesy and kindness over the years and would also thank the various officers of the Council for their unfailing co-operation during my tenure of office as M.O.H.

Yours faithfully,

C.H. Imrie

Medical Officer of Health

June, 1971.

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General Statistics

The population of Felixstowe according to the figures issued by the Registrar General was 19070 in mid 1970. This figure is lower by 240 than the estimate for the previous year and in view of the considerable activity which the town enjoys at present, is rather surprising. However, the Census of 1971 should give a firm basis for calculation.

Births & Deaths

Both the Birth & Death rates for the year, when adjusted for comparison, are somewhat lower than the corresponding rates for England and Wales. The relevant figures are shown on page 5.

Causes of Death

Page 6. shows the causes of the 296 deaths which occurred during the year.

It will be seen that the general distribution among the causes listed is similar to that of previous years. Once again the most frequent cause is heart or circulatory disease of one form or another. Malignant disease is next while infective conditions were named in only one case. No deaths were notified as being associated with childbearing.

Immunisation

The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following details of vaccination and immunisation carried out in Felixstowe during the year.

	Primary Courses	Boosters & Revaccinations
Diphtheria - Tetanus - Pertussis	209	115
Diphtheria - Tetanus	—	253
Tetanus	3	185
Poliomyelitis Salk	-	1
Poliomyelitis Sabin	208	578
Measles	121	-
Smallpox	184	63
Rubella	3	-

Unfortunately I have no figures relating to the acceptance rate for immunisation so that it is difficult to relate these figures to the population at risk. On the other hand the fact that nearly two thousand persons received immunisation of one form or another during the year indicates a lively awareness among the population of the importance of protection against these infections.

Notifiable Diseases

As the control of infection in the community becomes more and more effective the result is reflected in the decreasing number of cases coming to light.

During 1970 a total of 54 notifications were received and these related to only three diseases.

Measles, which in the past has displayed an enormous agility in its fluctuation, was responsible for 45 cases, while whooping cough with 2 and scarlet fever with 7 completed the list.

With regard to tuberculosis infections. At the beginning of the year there was a total of 62 cases on the register. During the year there were two fresh notifications and 39 removals from the register so that the year ended with a total of 24 cases in the town.

The 39 removals from the register are tabulated below showing reason for removal.

	Male	Female
Recovery	17	19
Removal to other districts	-	1
Died (Cause not tuberculosis)	-	2

STATISTICS

General Statistics

1.	Area of district in acres	4281
2.	Number of inhabited houses	6830
3.	Density of population - persons per acre	4.5
4.	Average number of persons per house	2.75
5.	Rateable value of district	£951657
6.	Sum represnted by penny rate	£3625

Vital Statistics

Summary

	1969	1970
Population	19310	19070
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	13.2	11.6
Local Adjusted Live Birth Rate	14.1	12.4
Still Birth Rate per 1000 live & still births	4	18
General Death Rate per 1000 population	14.6	15.5
Local Adjusted General Death Rate	9.9	10.9
Actual number of deaths under one year	6	4

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	93	109	202
Illegitimate	10	9	19
			221

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	11.6
Birth Rate adjusted for comparison with other areas	12.4
Live Birth Rate, England & Wales	16.0
Illegitimate live births percentage of all births	9

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	3	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
			4

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live Births	18
England & Wales	13

Deaths All Causes

Male	Female	Total
144	152	296

Death Rate per 1000 population	15.5
Death Rate adjusted for comparison with other areas	10.9
Death Rate, England & Wales	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal and Other Maternal Causes

NIL

Cause of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasms, Stomach	3	2	5
Intestine	3	1	4
Lung, Bronchus	5	1	6
Breast	-	3	3
Prostate	2	-	2
Leukaemia	1	2	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	16	25
Benign & Unsuspected Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	2	2
Meningitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	1	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2	2
Hypertensive Diseases	3	-	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	42	40	82
Other forms of Heart Disease	2	8	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	19	31	50
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	14	8	22
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	12	9	21
Bronchitis & Emphysema	7	-	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	2	4	6
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	4
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	4	4
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Other causes of perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill defined conditions	-	2	2
Motor Vehical Accidents	3	2	5
All other Accidents	-	2	2
Suicide & Self inflicted injuries	2	3	5
All other external causes	1	-	1
	144	152	296

Notifiable Disease Classified by Age

Age	Disease					
	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarletina	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1	1	-	-	-	-
1	1	3	-	-	-	-
2	5	5	1	-	-	-
3	7	2	-	-	-	-
4	1	3	-	-	2	-
5-9	4	10	1	-	2	2
10-14	-	-	-	-	-	1
15-24	1	-	-	-	-	-
25-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	21	24	2	-	4	3

Tuberculosis Table for 1970

	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		To
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register on 1.1.70	27	25	5	5	6
Number of cases notified under Regulations for the first time during the year	-	1	-	-	
Number of cases restored to the Register having been removed in the previous year	-	-	-	-	
Number of cases added to the Register and brought to Notice otherwise than by Primary Notification	-	-	-	-	
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year	12	17	5	5	
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	15	9	-	-	

Deaths of Infants

	Male	Female	Total
All deaths under 1 year of age	2	2	4
This number is made up as follows:			
Under 1 week	2	-	2
1 week to 4 weeks	-	1	1
4 weeks to 1 year	-	1	1

Causes of Death under 1 Year

	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Meningitis	-	1	1
			4

Death Rate of Children under 1 year per 1000 live births 18

SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL FOR YEAR 1970

1970	Sunshine Hrs.	Rainfall inches
January	21.45	2.782
February	100.45	2.506
March	103.20	1.337
April	126.45	2.229
May	200.55	0.353
June	262.55	0.525
July	163.00	1.567
August	229.15	0.998
September	166.30	1.314
October	122.00	0.730
November	63.45	4.921
December	41.15	2.291

	1968	1969	1970
Average Hours Sunshine Per Day	3.80	4.43	4.38
Actual Inches Rainfall For Year	24.120	25.213	21.553

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first report on the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors in the town. From a perusal of the last report made by my predecessor it is apparent that, because of changes in legislation, and Government policy, there has had to be a different emphasis during the past year.

This has made itself felt principally in the Housing field. The passing of the Housing Act 1969 has made a great difference to the number of enquiries about and applications for Improvement Grants, both for improvement of smaller homes, and the conversion of larger houses into two or more dwellings. We have also found it possible to deal with more houses which are unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense.

In an endeavour to ensure that fresh food only is available to the public, all food traders in the town were circularised in October, drawing their attention to the date ooding used by manufacturers and all were visited in this connection. Some of these codes are impossible to interpret even by food traders, and one is glad that this matter is under investigation by a Government Committee at present; but some are simple to understand. I think that the work we have done in this connection has had a good effect.

In conclusion, may I, on a personal note express my grateful thanks to all the members of the Council, particularly the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, the permanent staff of the Council in all departments, and members of the public who have made my first year in Felixstowe such a happy one. In particular my I express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C.H. Imrie, my assistant, Mr. J. Yarham and my secretary Mrs. R. North. Without the help given me by these latter two, my task during the first year would have been much more difficult.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.W. Finch

Chief Public Health Inspector.

South Beach Mansion,
Felixstowe.

July, 1971.

Summary of Inspections

Table 1

Houses inspected	202
Re-inspections as to execution of work	377
Drainage systems surveyed and tested	12
Rent Acts, Enquiries & Investigations	4
Improvement Grants, Surveys & Inspections	208
Qualification Certificates	84
Infectious disease control	6
Pest Control	2
Noise Nuisance	6
Other nuisances & defects	129
Water sampling & supplies	54
Beach Hut Sites	-
Overcrowing investigations	9
Camping Sites	28
Air Pollution	9
Offensive Trades	2
Food Premises (See Table 9)	449
Meat Inspections	36
Food Inspections (excluding meat)	927
Factory Acts	30
Offices Shops & Railway Premises Act	103
Miscellaneous	400
Refuse Storage/Removal	20
	2648

Table 2

Action under Statutory Powers

Details of notices served as follows

Statute	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Complied with	Outstanc at 31.12.70
a) Public Health Acts, 1936/61	60	5	43	17
b) Housing Acts 1957/64	1	11	4	8
c) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	4	-	2	2
d) Factories Act, 1961	-	-	-	-
e) Food Hygiene Regulations (incl. Stalls & Delivery vehicles)	5	-	3	2
f) Miscellaneous Acts	-	-	-	-
Totals	70	16	52	29

Clean Air

There are five industrial furnaces in the Urban District, three of which and their chimneys were given prior approval under the Clean Air Act 1956. Complaints of smut and smoke nuisance from a factory chimney were investigated during the year.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods)(Vessels) Regulations, 1958

These Regulations make it an offence for a vessel in inland water ways or port and harbour waters to emit smoke for longer than a specified period. No contraventions were observed during the year.

Water Supplies

Main Supplies

Water is supplied in bulk by the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking being purified by means of sedimentation, filtration and chlorination.

Thirteen samples of water were taken by the Department, during the year, for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All were satisfactory.

The natural fluoride content of the water supplied for domestic purposes is 0.1 parts per million. The water is not plumbo solvent.

Main and Other Supplies in the Urban District

Table 3 shows the water supplies, number of houses and population served on 31st December 1970. That all houses have an adequate supply of wholesome water and only eight are without a piped supply in the dwelling represents a high standard of achievement in this field.

Table 3

No. of Houses	Served by	Population
6806	Mains Supply	19006
8	" (Standpipe)	21
16	Bores & Wells	43

Extensions of mains during the year : 1423 yards.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Table 4

Houses	Provided with
6748	Main drainage
82	Cesspools/Septic Tanks

Housing

New Dwellings : Figures of houses built in the District since 1945 are given below:

Year	New Dwellings Completed: Private Development	New Dwellings Completed: Council Development
1945/1950	51	302
1951	9	75
1952	12	64
1953	38	84
1954	64	103
1955	69	85
1956	64	80
1957	49	45
1958	47	41
1959	35	57
1960	68	25
1961	102	-
1962	78	-
1963	76	10
1964	143	18
1965	98	19
1966	128	47
1967	146	49
1968	204	42
1969	132	19
1970	92	40
	1705	1205

Table 5 summaries action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts in respect of individual houses found to be seriously defective or unfit for human habitation. The action considered appropriate depends on the individual circumstances of each case.

Existing Dwellings

Defective or Unfit Houses

Table 5

Number of houses at which defects were remedied after informal notice	50
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	2
Number of Demolition Orders made	13
Number of Closing Orders made	4
Number of undertakings accepted not to use dwellings for human habitation	1
Number of unfit houses awaiting statutory action (31.12.70)	74

Rent Acts, 1957/68

Certificates of Disrepair for Rent-controlled Houses

Details of action taken are:

Table 6

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	2
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	
a) in respect of some but not all defects	-
b) in respect of all defects	2
Number of undertakings given by Landlords under paragragh 6 of the First Schedule	2
Number of Certificates issued	Nil

Housing Improvements

The coming into force of the Housing Act 1969 has made a considerable difference to the number of applications for grant received, which has shown an encouraging increase. During the year 24 applications were received for Standard Grants and 18 for Improvement Grant. This increase has meant that there has been an increase in the time spent on housing work by the Health Department Staff. Much greater interest has been shown by house owners in carrying out works of conversion to large old houses. Two and sometimes three flats, equipped with modern amenities being provided from large and sometim dilapidated older houses.

Qualification Certificates

In order to take advantage of the "fair rent" procedure of the Housing Act, 1969 a house owner must obtain a Qualification Certificate from the Local Authority. During the year 24 applications were received from owners of houses lacking one or more of the standard amenities, 18 Certificates of Provisional Approval were issued and 1 Qualification Certificate. There were also 35 applications in cases where houses already possessed the standard amenities, and 16 Qualification Certificates were issued. Before the issue of a Certificate properties had to be in good repair and a considerable amount of repair work was carried out in order that houses should qualify.

Table 7

Improvement of Dwellings Inside Improvement Areas

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:		Number of dwellings concerned
full standard		-
reduced standard		-
Undertakings given		-
Improvement notices served :	Immediate	-
	Suspended	-
	Final	-
Appeals under Section 27		-
Notices withdrawn:	Immediate	-
	Suspended	-
	Final	-
Improvement works completed		1

Table 8

Improvement of Dwellings Outside Improvement Areas

Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to:	Number dwellings concerned
Full standard	2
Reduced standard	-
Undertakings given	-
Improvement notices served	2
Appeals against improvement notices	-
Improvement notices withdrawn	-
Improvement works completed	-

Caravans and Camping

Particulars of licences outstanding at the end of the year are:

Licences to use land as a site for holiday caravans	Maximum No. of vans permitted
9	1006

Licences to use land as a site for tented camping	Maximum No. of tents permitted
2	26

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies

Table 9

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	No. of Premises fitted to comply with *Reg. 19	*Reg.16
Cafes and Canteens	63	95	63	63
Hotels and Guest Houses	84	16	84	84
Bakehouses	4	13	4	4
Grocers	35	136	32	32
Butchers	18	87	18	18
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	17	8	16	16
Confectioners & Sweetshops	21	11	21	21
Licensed Premises	18	2	18	18
Fish shops (Fried & Wet)	11	15	11	11
Stalls (inc. Mobile Shops)	46	62	46	46
Dairies	1	-	-	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	5	-	5	5
Ice Cream Vendors	111	7	111	111
Warehouses	1	4	1	1
Total	435	456	430	430

* Regulations 16 & 19 require the provision of adequate sinks and wash-hand basins with hot and cold supplies.

Food Complaints

Four cases of the sale of food which was not of the nature, quality or substance which a purchaser could expect, were investigated. These included:

3 mouldy loaves of bread.

1 mouldy meat pie.

Meat Inspection

A 100% inspection of all carcases was achieved at the local slaughterhouse (See Table 10) below.

Table 10

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	-	-	22	-	32	-
Number inspected	-	-	22	-	32	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health Shellfish Regulations 1934

Whelks are obtainable from Shingle Street and the Orwell Estuary and are cooked before sale.

One sample of shellfish was taken during the year. The result was satisfactory.

Section 88, Felixstowe U.D.C. Act, 1947

The following registrations have been made:

a) Persons registered as food hawkers	18
b) Persons registered for the storage of food intended for sale from a cart, barrow or other vehicle	16

Milk and Dairies

There are thirty-seven registered distributors and one registered dairy in the district, all dealing in designated heat-treated milks.

Samples of Milk and Fresh Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination

Table 11

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results	
	Pasteurised Milk	Satisfactory	43
		Unsatisfactory	1
	Sterilised Milk	Satisfactory	4
		Unsatisfactory	-
	Pasteurised Fresh Cream	Satisfactory	24
		Unsatisfactory	14

All unsatisfactory samples were followed up and, where appropriate corrective action taken.

8 samples of sausage were taken during the year. All were satisfactory.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation Regulations) 1963

Eight samples of imported pasteurised liquid egg were submitted to the alpha-amylase test with satisfactory results.

Voluntary Surrendered Unsound Food

Food suspected of being unsound is either brought by the complainant purchaser to the Public Health Department for examination or made available for inspection at the food premises concerned.

Table 12 records the foodstuffs examined and declared unfit for human consumption outside the local slaughterhouse.

Table 12

Goods Canned or Packed

Commodity	No. of Cans or Packs
Fish	43
Meat	53
Vegetable	318
Fruit	484
Frozen Foods	1217
Cereals etc.	315
Soup	31

Goods Not Canned or Packed

Commodity	Weight
Meat	141lb
Chicken	384lb

Byelaws as to Hairdressers & Barbers

There are twenty-six of these premises in Felixstowe, all comply with the basic structural and functional requirements of the local byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1961.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

This Act places a statutory duty on the occupier of any land or building to notify the Council of an infestation of his premises by rats or mice. The number of notifications or complaints received during the year was:

Private House	430
Business Premises	42
Waste land or neglected plots	4

A summary of work appears in the following table.

Table 13

	Type of Property	
	Non Agriculture	Agriculture
Total number of properties inspected following notification.	394	Nil
Number infested by Rats	347	Nil
Mice	47	Nil
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	875	14
Number infested by Rats	350	8
Mice	Nil	Nil

Working Conditions in Shops and Offices

Implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 has brought about a big improvement in working conditions in these premises the majority of which locally attain, if not surpass, statutory standards.

Table 14 lists local registrations (excluding family businesses and factory offices) and general inspections, Table 15 the class of work place and number of persons employed and Table 16 analyses the contraventions discovered.

Accidents Notified

NIL

Table 14

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered premises at end of year	No. of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the yea
Offices	1	84	8
Retail Shops	2	139	53
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens etc.	1	27	38
Fuel storage depots	-	1	2

Table 15

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Office	1117
Retail shops	616
Wholesale departments, warehouses	[illegible]4
Catering establishments open to the public	180
Canteens	14
Fuel storage depots	13
Total Males	1944
Total Females	875
	1069

Table 16

Analysis of Contraventions

Section		Number of Contraventions Found
4	Cleanliness	1
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	2
7	Ventilation	-
8	Lighting	-
9	Sanitary	1
10	Washing Facilities	-
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	-
13	Sitting Facilities	-
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
15	Eating Facilities	-
16	Floors, passages & stairs	-
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-
18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24	First Aid General Provisions	1
		5

Administration of Factories Act, 1964

Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	No. Occu Pros
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	30	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	66	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	70	30	-	-

There are 70 registered factories in the town, mainly engaged in light engineering.

There is one registered outworker in the town.